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Abstract

THE POWER OUTLOOK IN AUSTRALIA

by the

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and the

Department of National Development.

Existing electricity generating and transmission arrangements are described and demand and demand growth, present and future (to 1975), are summarised.

Fuel resources, problems of particular States, current trends in collaboration between states for electricity generation and supply purposes and the outlook for the use of black and brown coal, oil, hydro, natural gas, nuclear and tidal power are mentioned.

It is suggested that, in the larger electrical systems in Australia utilizing relatively cheap and abundant sources of black and brown coal, there is little likelihood of nuclear power being introduced within the period under review.

In some of the smaller systems, in particular South Australia, indigenous fuel is less abundant or wholly committed, and fuel must be imported. In these circumstances nuclear power could be competitive. However, these systems are not yet sufficiently developed - individual system demand being below 500 MW - to enable nuclear units in the larger, less costly range to be introduced immediately. Nevertheless, considering current trends in nuclear power developments and costs, it is possible that nuclear units of the order of 200 MW capacity could be introduced within the period under review.